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Page Denied

CONTENTS

25X1

- 2. COMMENT ON PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES OF
LONDON TALKS ON CYPRUS (page 4).**

25X1

Page Denied

2. COMMENT ON PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES OF LONDON TALKS ON CYPRUS

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Indications on the eve of the tripartite conference on the Cyprus issue are that the talks will be unsuccessful from the Greek point of view and may end abruptly. The failure of the talks will probably cause the fall of the Greek Rally government.

Greek Foreign Minister Stephanopoulos told the American embassy that Prime Minister Papagos has approved immediate termination of the talks if Turkey is intransigent from the outset. King Paul believes Papagos might resign as a "hero who has done his best" if the talks fail. In that event, the king may either appoint Stephanopoulos provisional prime minister or summon a Rally caucus which would be expected to nominate Minister of Public Works Karamanlis for the post. Any new Greek government will have to push the Greek UN appeal aggressively in order to gain popular support in the Greek general elections which will probably follow.

Ankara's refusal to compromise on the present status of Cyprus makes an early break-up of the conference almost certain. Ambassador Warren believes Menderes' recent all-out attack on Greek policy on the Cyprus question was designed to prevent any British concessions to Greece, to dramatize the issue before the conference opens, and to protect his government against opposition charges of laxity in defending Turkish interest in Cyprus.

As a result of the London conference, Greek-Turkish relations will probably worsen. Renewed violence is likely to erupt in Cyprus.

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